

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/977,589

encoder retains the following initial magnetic characteristics when measured at a point 2.0 mm distant from the magnetized encoder:

*as of
C5*

- * Single pitch deviation: $\pm 2\%$ or less and
- * Magnetic flux density: ± 3 mT or higher.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

861 1. (Amended) A wheel bearing assembly which comprises:
a 3
an inner member;
an outer member;
at least one circumferential row of rolling elements rollingly interposed between the inner and outer members;
a sealing device for sealing an annular end space defined between the inner and outer members; and
a magnetized encoder mounted on one of the inner and outer members which serves as a rotary member and including an elastic member made of a base material mixed with a powder of magnetic material, said elastic member being bonded by vulcanization to the magnetized encoder and having a series of alternating magnetic poles of opposite polarities formed in a direction circumferentially of the rotary member;
wherein under a thermal endurance test condition in which the magnetized encoder is subjected to 1,000 thermal cycles each consisting of heating at 120°C for one

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hour followed by cooling at -40°C for one hour, the magnetized encoder retains the
following initial magnetic characteristics when measured at a point 2.0 mm distant from
the magnetized encoder: :

A3
CD
Single pitch deviation: $\pm 2\%$ or less and

Magnetic flux density: $\pm 3 \text{ mT}$ or higher.
